PRESIDENT: This offer of a small share in the net profits of this commercial enterprise is intended as an incentive for the officer in charge to run the department as an efficient and profitable commercial concern; that is what every civilised Government does when it starts commercial enterprises. Otherwise, these commercial departments also will begin to be run by the officer in charge just like every other Government department the officers going to the office precisely at 10·30 in the morning and leaving it exactly at 5 o'clock in the evening, disposing of as many files as possible during the interval, and disfiguring sheets of paper by staining them with ink, a process mostly unnecessary for a profit-making department. If, on the other hand the head of the department is told that he would get a share of the net profits, he would naturally have an incentive to see that it yields the maximum profits possible. That is why, as I said, civilised Governments which undertake such commercial ventures, proceed, to work them on commercial lines, if necessary by offering inducements in the shape of commission, or what in Government parlance may be called bribes That is why many Governments are chary of undertaking such commercial concerns; you do not know where commission stops and bribes start. In some cases, it is considered more advisable even to reduce the salary and to enhance the commission.

In the case of our Transport Department, after deducting depreciation on building, machinery and rolling-stock, and interest on capital, we get a net profit of seven-and-a-half per cent, while we are not able to get more than 3 1/2 or 3 per cent on money which we invest. 7 1/2 per cent on a commercial venture of this kind is a very big income. It is further proposed, later on to provide also for the maintenance of the roads and to deduct such provision also from the gross income, before calculating the net profit. In other words, in future, depreciation on buildings, machinery and rollingstock, interest on capital and also provision for the maintenance of roads, it is only after having made provision for all these items, that the net income will be calculated; and it will be only out of such net income that the Superintendent of Transport will get his small share. If he is able to make more profit, he will get more. Human nature being what it is, if you want to make your commercial venture yield more profit to you, it is a much better idea to give that inducement in the shape of commission. Half of the ill-success of the commercial ventures started not only by this Government but by most Governments is due to the fact that such commercial concerns also are run just like other Government departments.

In-patients in the District Hospital, Parur.

422. ✻**MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM** (*Mucattupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of beds for in-patients provided in the District Hospital, Parur;

(*b*) the number of in-patients under treatment thereon on 24.11-1114;

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[Mr. KottalilP· Abrahrm.]

(*c*) the monthly average number of·in-patients there from Chingam 1114 to Edavam 1114 (both months inclusive);

(*d*) where and in what manner ·the in-patients whose ·number exceed the number of beds provided are accommodated in the hospital;

(*e*) whether there is convenient space in the hospital compound for constructing additional sheds or wards for in-patients;

(*f*) whether the congestion due to overcrowding of in-patients was brought to the notice of the Government by any of the hospital authorities; and

(*g*) what remedial measures, if any, are the Government undertaking to avoid the congestion in the said hospital?

VAIDYASASTRAKUSALA MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE: (*a*) 46 beds.

(*b*) 77 patients.

(*c*) 63.

(*d*) They are accommodated on the floor between beds wherever there is space and on the verandahs.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) Yes.

(*g*) The matter is under consideration.

Cardamom Pests.

423. ❋ **MR. K. DOMINIC JOSEPH** (*Vaikom* cum *Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether serious damage is being done to cardamoms in the Cardamom Hills by insect pests;

(*b*) if so, what measures have been taken by the Government to remedy the situation;

(*c*) whether the Agricultural Department has recommended Nicotine spraying as a measure against this disease;

(*d*) whether Nicotine Sulphate is subjected to import duty in Travancore; and

(*e*) if so, what is the amount of the duty?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Assistant Entomologist was directed to visit the affected areas and to demonstrate remedial measures. He toured the Cardamom Estates for a period of six weeks from 23rd Thulam 1113 and for another period of about two weeks from 31-8-1114, camped at many estates and conducted demonstration of spraying the affected crop.

(*c*) Spraying with tobacco waste decoction is the cheapest and the most effective method recommended by the Department. Nicotine spraying is also good. But it is more costly than tobacco waste.

(*d*) Nicotine sulphate is subject to import duty when it is imported direct from foreign countries through the Sea Customs Houses.

(*e*) Duty at the rate of 30 per cent Advalorem (Standard) and 20 per cent Advalorem preferential.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDHANAN NAIR: With reference to part (c), may I ask whether the spraying of tobacco decoction acts as a complete check of the pest?

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